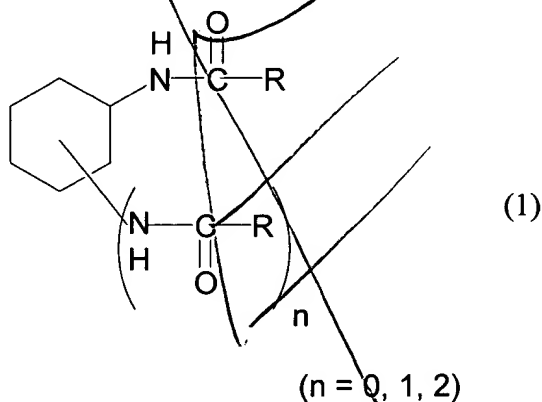


IN THE CLAIMS:

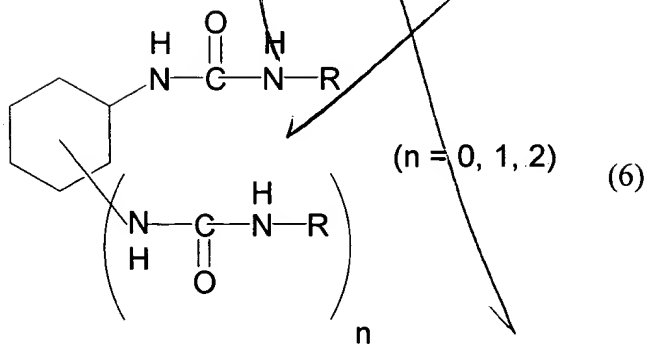
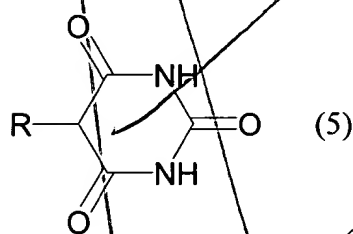
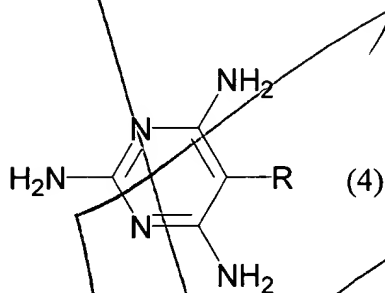
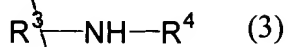
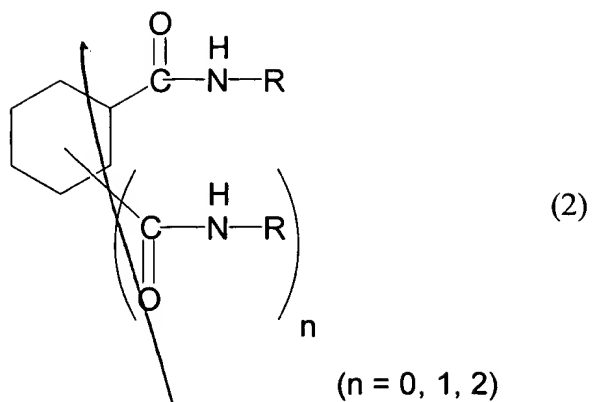
Please amend claims 1 and 5 as follows. A marked-up copy of the claims, showing the changes made thereto, is attached.

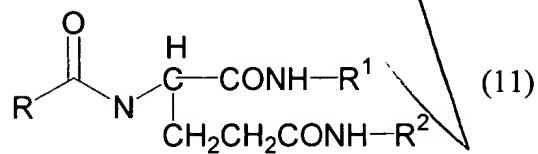
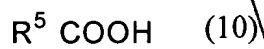
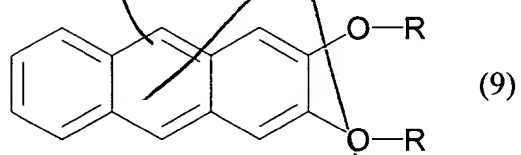
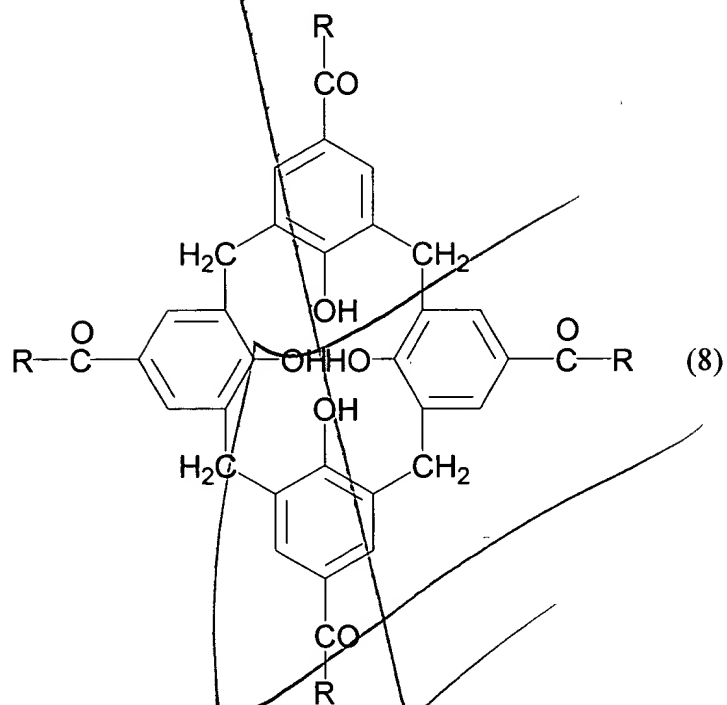
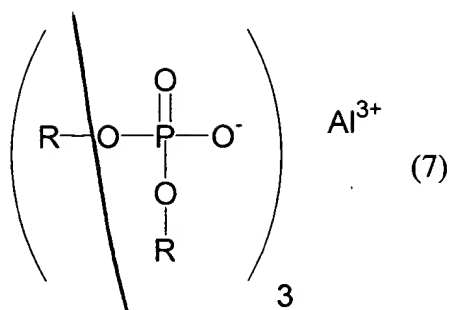
1. (Three Times Amended) A gel electrolyte comprising:  
a gelling agent forming a fibrous body; and  
an ionically conductive material, which is liquid at working temperature and which is held in the fibrous body by said gelling agent,  
wherein said gelling agent substantially does not free an aldehyde at room temperature and in the presence of water,  
wherein the fibrous body is associated via intermolecular bonding, and  
wherein said gelling agent is a non-polymeric gelling agent.

5. (Twice Amended) The gel electrolyte of claim 1, wherein said gelling agent is selected from the group consisting of the compounds represented by the following formulae (1) to (17) and (19) to (26):

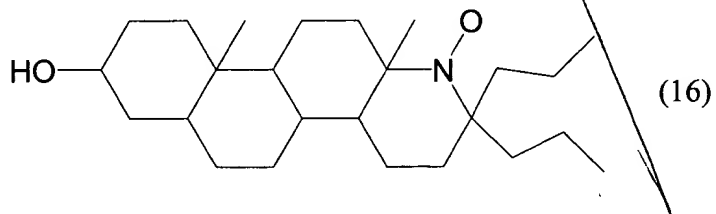
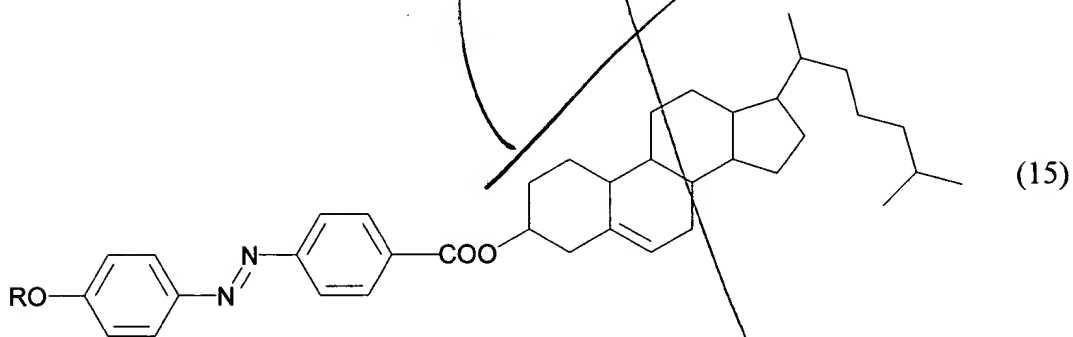
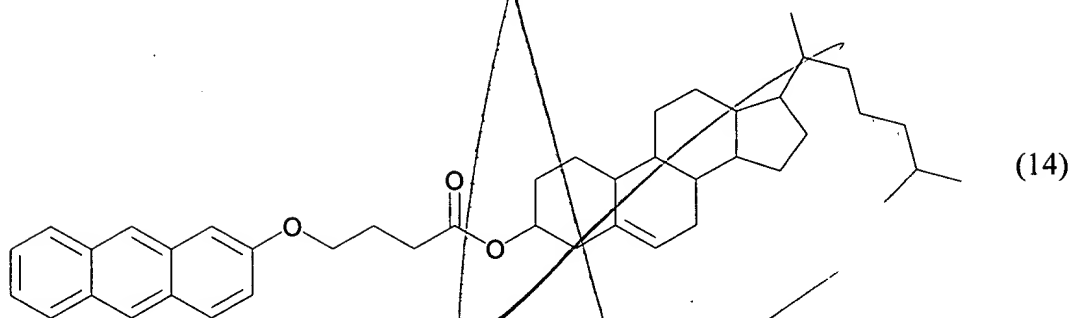
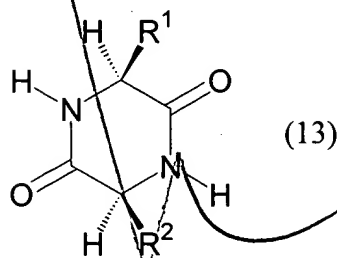
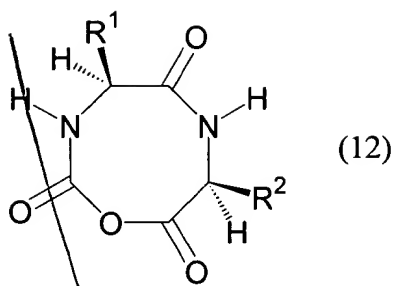


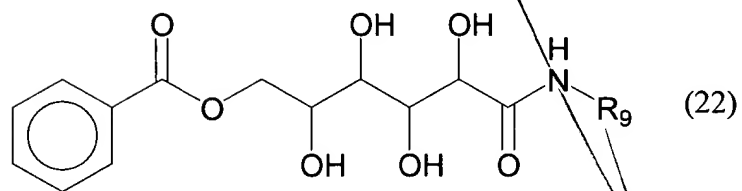
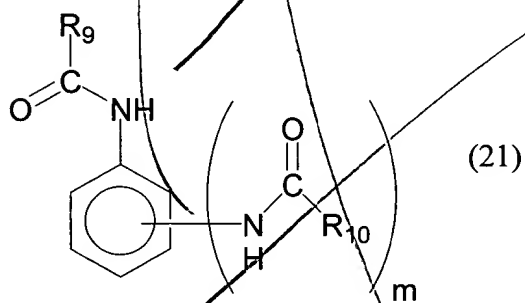
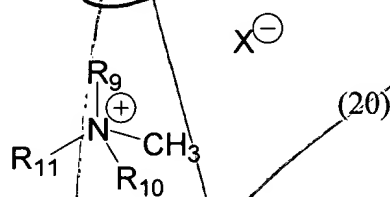
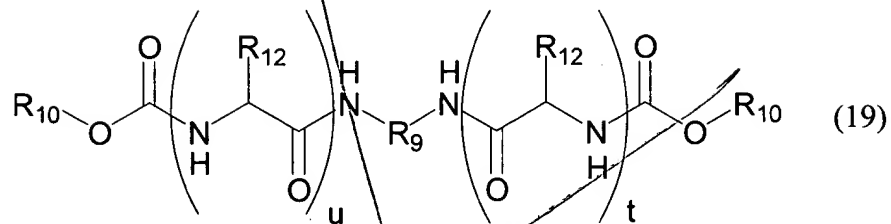
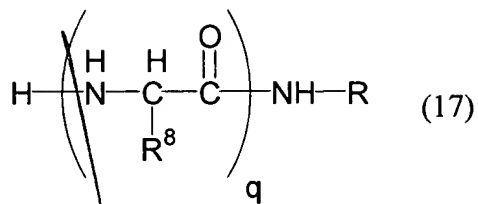
102



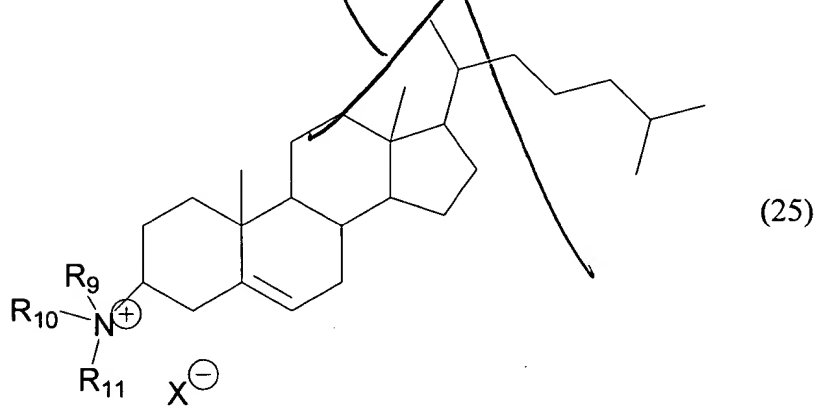
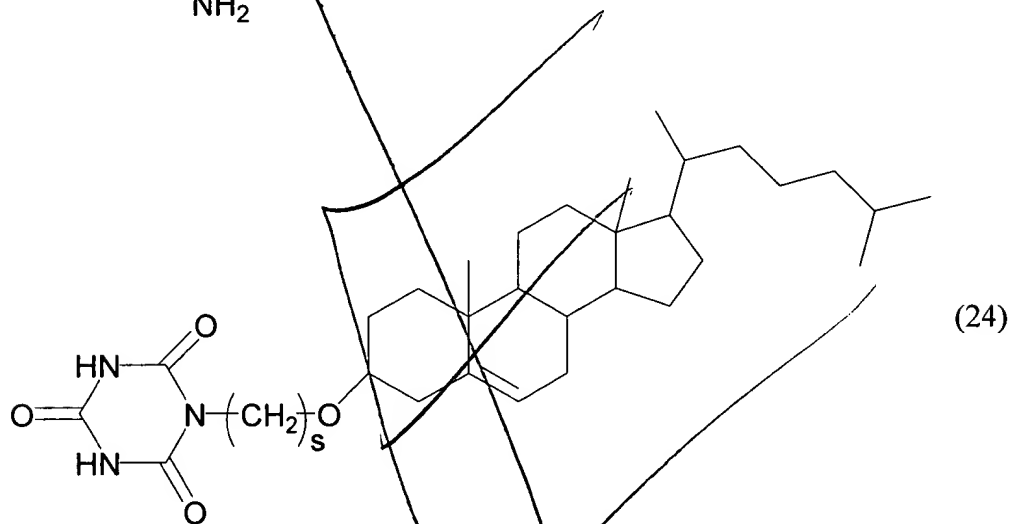
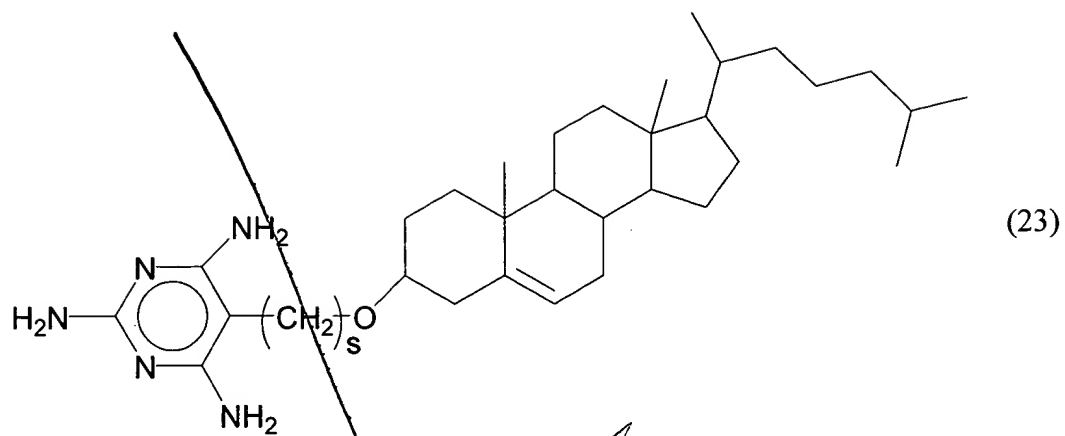


102

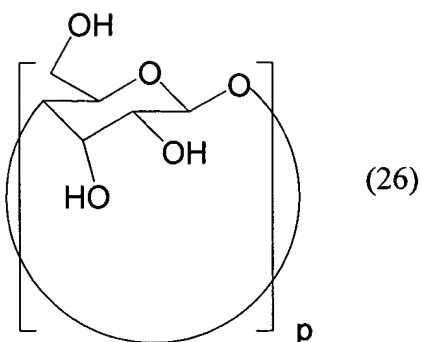




22



and



wherein, R, R<sub>1</sub> and R<sub>2</sub> are each hydrogen, or a straight-chain or branched aliphatic hydrocarbon group having a carbon number of 1 to 29; R<sub>3</sub> is an amino acid monomer or dimer with a protected amino group; R<sub>4</sub> is an aliphatic hydrocarbon having a carbon number of 1 to 29 or an aryl group; R<sub>5</sub> is a straight-chain aliphatic group having a carbon number of 1 to 29 and being substituted with one hydroxyl group; R<sub>6</sub> and R<sub>7</sub> are each an aliphatic hydrocarbon group having a carbon number of 1 to 29 or an aryl group; R<sub>8</sub> is hydrogen, or an aliphatic hydrocarbon group having a carbon number of 1 to 5 or aryl group; n is 0, 1 or 2; q is an integer of 2 to 20; R<sub>9</sub>, R<sub>10</sub> and R<sub>11</sub> are each hydrogen, or a straight-chain or branched aliphatic hydrocarbon group having a carbon number of 1 to 29; R<sub>12</sub> is a side chain of an amino acid, or an alkyl or aryl group; X is a halogen; p is an integer of 6 to 8; m is an integer of 0 to 5 and s is an integer of 0 to 29, and a and t are an integer of 1 to 500.

Kindly add new claims 8 and 9 as follows:

8. (New) A gel electrolyte according to claim 1, wherein said gelling agent has a structure that does not free the aldehyde.